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ISSUE 196

# STREETVIBES

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ADVOCATING JUSTICE • BUILDING COMMUNITY

## Streetvibes Remembers...

We would like to dedicate this issue of Streetvibes to those we lost ten years ago, to those who lived through the unrest and carried on, and those who are still effected by it today.

### JIMMY HEATH

Former Streetvibes Editor

These photos were taken during the unrest by Jimmy Heath.

Jimmy Heath was a photographer and community activist living and working in the Over-the-Rhine neighborhood of downtown Cincinnati, Ohio. Jimmy came to Over-the-Rhine nine years ago as a homeless person, eventually finding his way to the Drop Inn Center homeless shelter. He had hit rock bottom in his life and career, and had turned to alcohol and drugs for solace. At the Drop Inn Center, Jimmy Heath found hope and recovery and a new direction for his life and inspiration for his photography as a community activist and documentarian. He was a successful editor of GCCH's Streetvibes and was active with the Coalition for many years. Jimmy passed away in December 2007.



## Race Relations 101

### JIM LUKEN

Contributing Writer

When the riots occurred in 2001, I was living in a small town in Northern Vermont, which was about as far away from Cincinnati and its problems as a person could be, and still be living in the "belly of the beast" (the USA).

I was managing a low-income housing facility (all white) in the middle of the town. Knowing I hailed from Cincinnati, several of my old-lady residents brought the news of the riots to me on April 10th. I remember one of the ladies asking, "What kind of city do you come from, anyway?"

As a white man who had lived for several years in heart of Over the Rhine during the '90s, I had a pretty good sense of the "kind of city" where I had been born. Politically republican. Socially conservative. And, like most municipalities in the Northern states, in a huge state of denial about the racist atmosphere that prevailed, and that "colored" so many interactions between black folks and white folks. But, being so far removed from it, I found myself

surprised that these attitudes, and this atmosphere, had spawned what NBC News described as "the most devastating riots since Watts(1992)."

I had been aware of police problems in/ with the African-American community, that there had been several shootings of black men by white police officers prior to 19 year-old Timothy Thomas's death. But I was, to repeat, white. I didn't record, on the walls of my imagination (or my soul), the deaths of each of 15 other young black men (all under 40) that had occurred between 1995 and April 7, 2001. Nor did I know much about the four police officers killed (or wounded) during those deadly interactions.

But, on both sides in Cincinnati, other people were running tallies, and—after young Thomas's shooting on April 7—one side had obviously had enough. On April 9, the race riots—this time exclusive to Cincinnati—exploded locally and nationally, and even internationally.

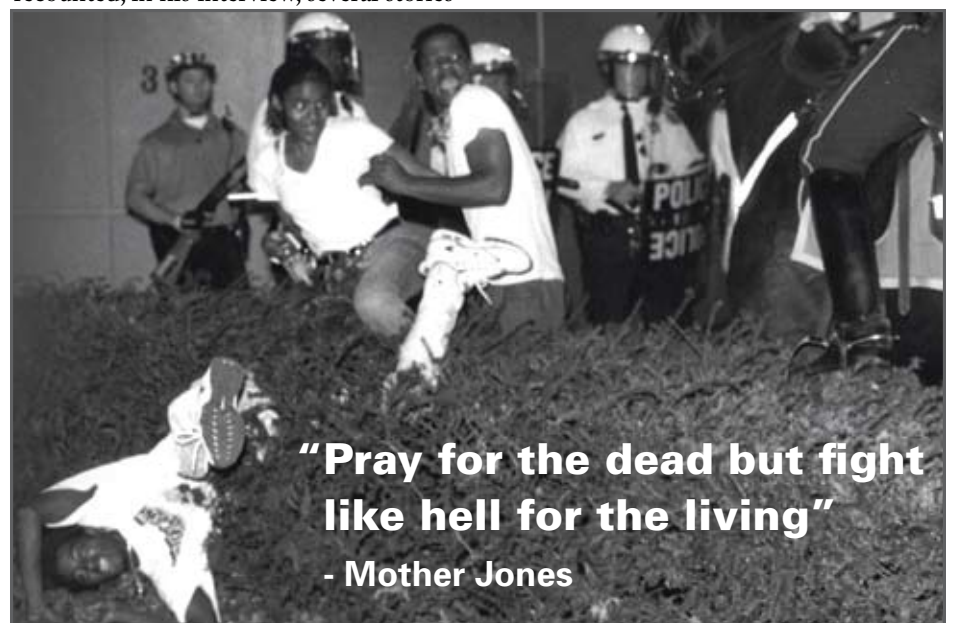
An old friend of mine, 63- year-old (white) Mike Henson, now a clinical counselor for Paths to Recovery in OTR, was contacted by a journalist in Rome who interviewed him for an Italian Newspaper, Il Manifesto. He remembers

being on the West Side and stopping to help an African American couple whose car had broken down. He gave them a ride home. However, there was a strange atmosphere in the car. "Black and white people weren't talking much at the time. It was an odd time for us to be holding a conversation."

Mike had been working for the Urban Appalachian Council at the time, and recounted, in his interview, several stories

of police over-reaction that had occurred among Appalachian whites in Lower Price Hill at the time. Then he added (translated from the Italian newspaper): "I know that the police have a hard life and a difficult job, especially when tasked with the daily battle against the [drug] pushers in my community. I know there are police who themselves worry gravely

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**"Pray for the dead but fight like hell for the living"**

- Mother Jones





## BY THE NUMB3RS

### 10

The number of years since the unrest in Cincinnati.  
Pages 1, 3, & 4

### 19

The age Timothy Thomas was when he was killed, sparking riots in Cincinnati in 2001.  
Page 1

### 1 in 110

The number of children diagnosed with autism.  
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### 4-1-2001

The day Dan Moore's excerpt from his cartoon Mark Twain Was Right: Stories from the 2001 Cincinnati Riots and Unrest  
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### 3-19-2011

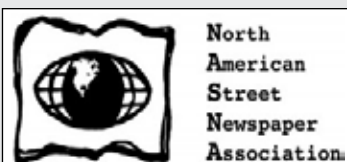
The day The Rally for Peace took place on Fountain Square to mark the 8th anniversary of the Iraq War, and to promote peace and civility.  
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### 5 to 1

The staff to student ratio at Lighthouse Community School.  
Page 7

### 3

The number of years local artist Rod Northcutt has taught traditional, non-electric, woodworking skills through a making-based traveling course, Unplugged.  
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## In My Shoes

Editorial By Jen Martin



I am sure you were on pins and needles (I am kidding, really) but I have decided on a new name for this editorial. 'In My Shoes', is a nod to the tall shoes I walk in most days. You can call me a stupid girl for it but I love my shoes...and about five and a half feet above them resides my brain...a big, smart brain that I do in fact have...you'll find it right beneath my highlighted hair. Yes, I am way more Elle Woods than Streetwise.

This editorial is my opinion, and my time here at *Streetvibes* is also my education as much as it is a job. And I thank the people who are my teachers here in every instance. Because again, more Legally Blonde than Streetwise. But I think that may be a good thing. It means I will do anything and everything for what I believe is right. And it means I am honest and I'll have your back if you have mine. I am learning this is the way I need to be in this job, this community, and in life. My education here has taught me so much about the stories you'll read in this issue of *Streetvibes*. I am proud to share these stories. I am honored with the duty of sharing what people in this community have felt in the ten years since the unrest. I was only 16 when Timothy Thomas was killed. I was a Sophomore in high school and I lived in Lakeside Park, Kentucky. So clearly, I do not have the raw emotions and thoughts of what happened in this community. But that is where my education at *Streetvibes* comes in. People have shared their feelings and thoughts in this issue. The passionate, passionate feelings that this community still has. My goal with this issue was to honor those emotions by giving them a voice. My goals is to reflect on the events of ten years ago during the unrest, and allow the raw concerns that still plague this community even today, to be heard. I can hardly imagine the fear and uncertainty that surrounded that time. The community has come so far, but the pain is still very real. So to the community... I honor you, each and everyone who was effected. I honor you for living through it and carrying on. This community has done that and will continue to do that. This community must believe in itself. It just must. And it will.

*Believing in yourself never goes out of style.*

On a side note, a memorial has been announced for Bruce Morris who recently passed.  
**Tuesday April 5th @12 pm at the Jimmy Heath House.**

## From the Director

We Are At WAR in Cincinnati

JOSH SPRING

War! At the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless we like to deal in Truth. Not everyone likes to hear or see Truth, but we believe that the Truth must be proclaimed loudly, must be respected and ultimately should change us. So let's talk about some Truth. The Truth is that the united states of america not only is a brutal country now, but has always been a brutal country; in fact our roots are founded in brutality. Prior to the landing of white people upon these shores this land held the nations of many people that had been here for an unknown span of time. We did not establish this country based on some Godly ideals. We established this country through mass lying, theft, coercion, hate, occupation and murder. We not only thought ourselves better than those here, but also capable and worthy of deciding that they should not be here and millions of them should die for our destined right to be here. This country was created through war, and not in the sense of some sacred revolutionary war, but the forced death of generations of people.

Far too often in this country, both people and organizations who call themselves either conservative or liberal, attempt to maintain that at its core, the united states of america is about freedom and humanity and that we should therefore get back to our core. To stand by such a belief is to stand by a lie and to disrespect the untold numbers of people that have died at the hands of this country. In fact, the belief that the usa is inherently about freedom and humanity is such an absurdity that many of those that stand by this belief, will also say that in order to keep freedom, we must at times have war- that somehow war leads to freedom and humanity, and war especially keeps those of us in the usa free. This lying mantra is what launched us into both the war in Afghanistan and the war in Iraq. We have been at war in Afghanistan since October 7, 2001- over nine years and five months. We have been at war in Iraq since March 20, 2003- now over eight years.

We tend to use words that allow us to feel okay about the injustices we are committing. For example, we leapt into these wars with the label of "The War on Terror." Obviously terror is a bad thing, and inherently going to war against "Terror" would be good and upright. "Terror" should in fact be ended. These wars, however, have not been on "Terror." These wars have been on people. We are purposefully distracted from the fact that we are at war on people by thinking we are waging a "War on Terror" The term "war" itself has become mundane and has little affect upon many. Do most of us really feel the wars daily or do we even know when we do feel the wars? No, we don't. "War" has become just another word and we have become so used to the word, that it barely affects the usa psyche. War is not real to us. This is another case in which we must begin to deal in the Truth. The Truth is that war means lying, theft, occupation, rape, mass bloodshed and murder, not of "Terror," but of people. War is murder- horribly and simply. We have been murdering people and being murdered in these wars for going on ten years now (not to mention all the other below-the-radar murdering we are involved in).

Next, when we talk about war, especially if we are against it, we like to talk about the usa going to war or the president going to war or congress or any host of people, but again, we must deal in Truth. The Truth is that WE are engaged in war. WE are engaged in murder. Our tax-dollars pay for the bullets and bombs that rip apart the hearts and heads of people in other parts of the World. Our (regular people) compliancy allows these wars to murder countless people. This is Truth. We may be against it, we may even protest, march, rally, write letters, vote and do all of

*Streetvibes* is an activist newspaper, advocating justice and building community. Streetvibes reports on economic issues, civil rights, the environment, the peace movement, spirituality and the struggle against homelessness and poverty. Distributed by people who are or once were homeless, in exchange for a \$1 donation, Streetvibes is published twice a month by the Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless.

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The Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works to eradicate homelessness in Cincinnati through coordination of services, public education, grassroots advocacy and *Streetvibes*.



www.street-papers.org

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# Race Relations 101

Continued from Pg. 1

Asked if she was frightened at the time, Keith says, “No, I was cautious. I’m still cautious.” She feels that some things are better now than in that tumultuous period, but that there could be a stronger ongoing effort from both sides.

“We need to be creative in trying to improve the situation. The same goes for the city officials as well as the citizens. Sometimes I don’t think that they appreciate that we understand what the city needs to do.”

Don Cargile, a 52 year-old union electrician who now calls Las Vegas home, says he was living in Colerain

Of the situation in Over the Rhine today, Don Cargile is reflective. “The situation is complex,” he says. “I think there are well meaning people who wish it would just... go away.”

Twenty-five year-old, Rodney Beamon is the Community Outreach Coordinator for Elements, a youth hip-hop venue on Central Parkway that focuses on “rap and respect.” His take on things, then and now, has a different slant than the other, older folks who were interviewed for this story. Obviously, Beamon was just fifteen at the time of the Thomas shooting, but he was a very vocal young man, who literally got swept up in

The rioters, Rodney Beamon claims, amounted to about eight to ten people who were fed up, “and the only thing they knew how to do was to express themselves in destructive way, to tear things up, and set things on fire.”

Beamon believes that because of all the national attention, and the boycott of the city that came in the wake of the riots, a certain amount of accountability came to the police department. But after most of the dust had settled, he believes the police simply “ignored the Over the Rhine community and allowed it to self-destruct.”

As the 10th “anniversary” of the riots approaches, Beamon is refusing most invitations to talk to the Media. “I’ve known Curtis Fuller for years, and I just don’t want to be pulled into all that media stuff.” He says the only reason he did my interview was because it was Streetvibes, and because he and I had a mutual good friend in Mary Burke, director of Over the Rhine Community Housing.

Ten years after the riots, Rodney Beamon states emphatically, “A whole lot ain’t changed.” And he repeats the statement to make sure I understand his conclusion. Now, he believes, the local powers-that-be are “dragging people out of the community, forcing them to live away from the bus lines, all for their own personal gratification.”

It was almost as if he didn’t want the anger to come out, but—once started—there seemed to be no stopping him. “They’ve got money to buy street cars, but they don’t have money to feed homeless people. And they don’t have money to help youth groups, like Elements.”

Rodney Beamon doesn’t feel the city or the police are willing to support organizations like his, that are helping, on a daily, basis to prevent what happened in 2001 from happening again. “Our solution was this. We created a Hip-Hop Center where the kids can express themselves in a more creative and positive way.”

By the time I returned to Cincinnati from Vermont, in the summer of 2004, the after-effects from the riots were, by and large, gone. The national boycott seemed to have had a sobering effect on at least part of the city. I found an apartment near 14th and Race. The ghetto, at that time, was a different place than the one I had left seven years earlier. It felt like a lethal arcade game, a shooting gallery, and a killing machine. Four people were shot and killed on the street within a block of my apartment in less than 8 months. I would hear gunshots in the middle of the night, often three or four times a week. I developed an almost eerie intuition as to when those shots were just the “drug boys” showing off, and when their bullets had found human flesh.

In those days, as most neighborhood residents recall, the drug boys were on almost every street corner. The police had backed off, usually arriving for the clean-up, but little else. Cincinnati became another kind of spectacle. Many law-abiding people living in the ghetto believed that the police had basically abandoned the neighborhood to the dealers and their (often brutalized) suburban clients. The cops, I was told, felt they had taken the blame for causing the riots.

What came next—as all of us folks who live in OTR know—is still in process. And it involves wrecking balls and bulldozers and off-street parking. The purging of entire blocks of poor people from their long-time homes. “Gated” dwelling-places. Yuppie shops. Gentrification. We have even been fenced out of our park.

As things stand now, it appears, racial and class problems will simply resolve themselves... in a more civilized way. Civilized, that is, from the point of view of the gentrifiers, the city bigwigs, the big money folks who funnel in millions through 3CDC. Instead of ignoring the problems, instead of doing battle with the problems, it appears that the main problem, i.e., the poor (whom Jesus said “will always be with us”) are simply being pushed further and further out of this last corner of Over the Rhine, which some of us still call “our beloved community.” Maybe Jesus had it wrong.

P.S. The Cincinnati police were contacted numerous times in order that they might express their own ideas about the city then and now. Apparently, they chose not to respond. As the reader can tell, from many of the comments above, the poor people kindly stuck up for them.



Unrest **Source: Jimmy Heath**

Township at the time of the riots, but that he came downtown often “to support the demonstrations, and the work of pastor [Damon] Lynch.”

Many downtown people I have talked to say that Reverend Lynch [of New Prospect Baptist Church near Findley Market] was hugely important in helping to calm tensions and bring the two sides to some kind of mutual understanding.

According to Cargile, “Damon Lynch was concerned with a fair investigation of the facts [about Timothy Thomas’s death and some of the other questionable police shootings].” It was obvious to Cargile that the leaders of the black community were strongly discouraging the rioting and the “disrespectful conduct.”

“As I saw things go on,” Don Cargile says, “I think people confused the peaceful protests with those who came out to wreak violence. I don’t know if this was visible to people from the outside, but to me it was.”

Cargile lays part of the blame on the media’s coverage of the events of those fateful days. “I think that the rioters and those who misbehaved got more of the press. And I think that the better cops got discouraged, just as there seemed to be the possibility of a settlement between the city and the protesters.”

Carlisle has been living back in the city and the neighborhood for the past several years. He has taken a strong interest in understanding the dynamics of Over the Rhine and downtown Cincinnati. He reflected on what has seen since returning from Nevada.

“I feel like, to a degree, the neighborhood has morally deteriorated, and that a lot of decent people are somewhat tired. I think that the answer may lie within the community and within the family to a great degree “This may not be liked, but I’m gonna say it anyway. The answer lies in how we [in the African American community] handle our households, how we teach our children, how we treat each other. That was one of the messages of the original Black Panthers’ Party. Self accountability.”

the pain and the power of what came down during, and immediately after, the riots of ‘01.

In the African American Community, “Speak-Outs” were held in various local churches, so that the people would have a chance to express their fears, their frustrations, their hopes. Young Beamon attended one of these events at the New Freedom Baptist Church in Avondale. There, he says, he focused on one of the other disputed shootings. He recounted for me the gist of what he told the gathered people.

“I talked about a man named Lorenzo Collins, a mental patient. He left the hospital, no shoes and socks, dressed in a hospital gown. Someone reported that he was carrying a brick. The cops came, They maced him once. Then a second time. The man was unstable! They said he charged at them with his brick. Hit one of them with the only swing he took. Caused a concussion. The police shot him nine times. Later, during the riots, they used bean-bag guns and rubber bullets on rioters. I asked my audience where were the bean bag guns? Where were the rubber bullets, when they were dealing with this mental patient?”

Rodney Beamon’s eloquent words at that Speak-Out thrust him almost immediately into the national spotlight. Everyone apparently wanted to know about the Cincinnati riots. He participated in other Speak-Outs. One in Newark, called B-CAP (Black Cops Against Police Brutality). He spoke at the State of the World Black Conference along with Danny Glover and Dick Gregory. “I guess they were looking for a young black American man who was able to articulate the issue,” he now says, almost modestly.

Beamon frames the whole situation of the riots from the point of view of the young people. “The city was in turmoil,” he says, “and the youth thought they didn’t have the chance to express themselves. They found it dangerous to live in their own community. It seemed like every other day there were deaths. The same people you think you would call to protect you, are the same people who are killing young black males. The city got to the point it couldn’t take any more.”



# Mark Twain Was Right: Stories from the 2001 Cincinnati Riots and Unrest

**DAN MOORE**  
Author and Illustrator

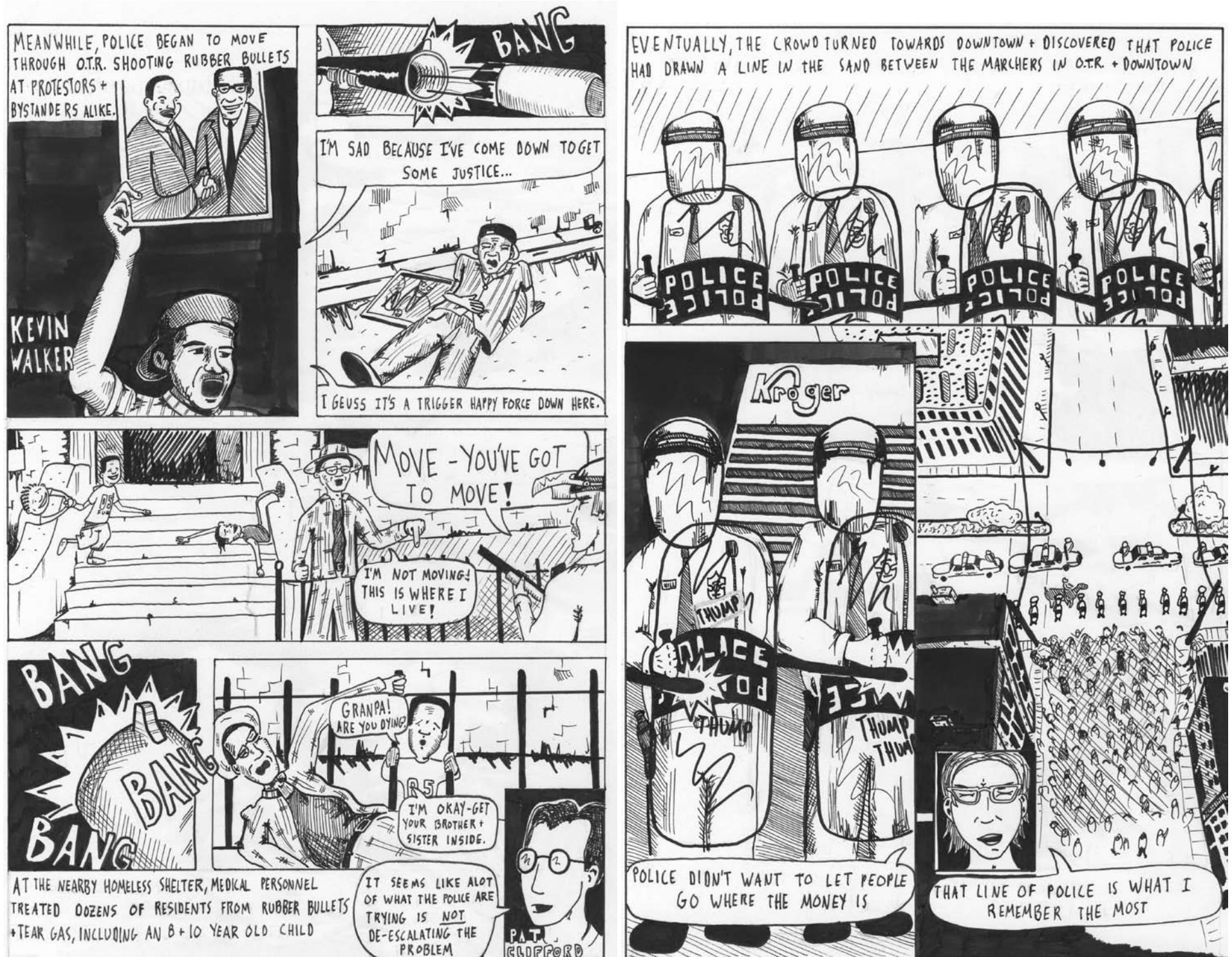
**M**ark Twain Was Right: Stories from the 2001 Cincinnati Riots and Unrest is a soon to be released graphic novel about United States' first urban uprising in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The following excerpt is during the daytime on Tuesday, April 10 2001, after protests in Over-The-Rhine continue into their second day and the police begin to respond to the growing uprising.

The story is told in a series of first-person perspectives from people who became intimately involved, from community leaders to random bystanders. Tying these narratives together is commentary by the author himself, then a budding radical teenager who finds the urban unrest influencing his life. Drawing on interviews and primary resources, a picture is painted of how one kid's solitary death in a ghetto alley grows to impact every resident of the region. Mark Twain Was Right follows the sometimes contradictory and hard-to-comprehend

developments from the day of the killing to Thomas's funeral six days later, including the marches, posturing, organizing, brutality, looting, prayer, curfews and analysis that commanded international attention, inspiring ghetto residents and tormenting city leaders. For more information about the complete graphic novel Mark Twain Was Right, email [cincinnati riotsbook@gmail.com](mailto:cincinnati riotsbook@gmail.com) for information and updates about the release of the completed novel.

Dan P. Moore was born and raised in Cincinnati and received his bachelor's

degree in Community Development at Portland State University. He first got involved in organizing during high school, founding the Cincinnati Radical Youth and has never stopped since then working on a variety of issues that engages marginalized communities at the base level. Currently, he is an organizer at the Cincinnati Interfaith Workers Center, organizing low-wage and immigrant workers. Aside from self-publishing two comic zines, *One of those Beautiful Days*, and *A Guide to Relationships during a Recession*, this is his first graphic novel.



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## Chocolate Locket and Yellow Pillows: An Autism Story

SANDRA KNOLLMAN



When most people think of autism, they think of Dustin Hoffman's character in Rain Man, someone locked away in an institution who could spout off mathematical facts and figures at the drop of a hat. Or even the "stereotypical" child walking around with a helmet on their head in order to prevent injury while banging their heads on a wall or some other surface. What people don't realize is that autism is more than some part in a movie, and that no two people with autism are alike.

I have two daughters, one officially diagnosed with autism, and one who has severe receptive language disorder and disruptive behavior disorder. This pretty much means there aren't too many dull or quiet moments in my household. Especially not for the past year since my oldest daughter was unexpectedly kicked out of her autism program.

I always thought of myself as fearless and bulletproof, that is until the day my daughter got kicked out of her autism program. I thought I was going to

school for a typical meeting, and ended up taking my daughter home from that school for the last time. I was told she was "no longer a good fit"; "causing anxiety in other kids" (not true!); and that she was "no longer welcome" at that school.

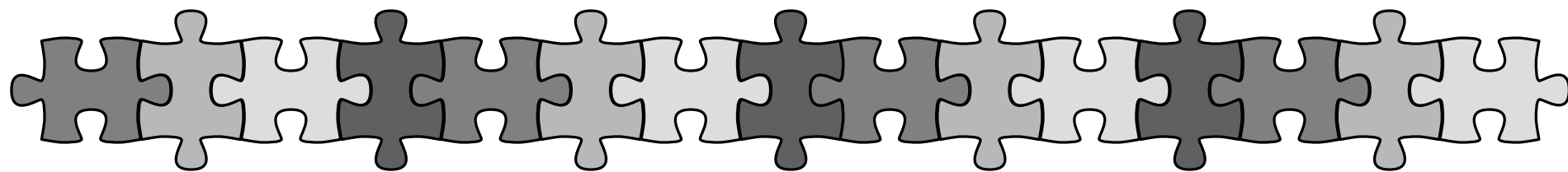
I had just settled into a job I loved at a local nonprofit doing foreclosure counseling for clients who were past due on their mortgages. I helped them try to get loan modifications from their lenders. I also taught foreclosure prevention classes, as well as budget and credit classes and counseling. I had only been there five months when my daughter got kicked out. I had to quit that job because I hadn't been there long enough to take family leave.

So where did that leave my family? It left us with one income and no school for my daughter. It took a whole month to find her a new school. Once I found her a new school, the only job I could find was working as med tech and nurse aide at a local assisted living facility

making half of my previous salary.

It's been a year now, and I finally feel like my life is somewhat back to normal. My daughter is in a school she loves, though she really misses her old friends. I'm at a different job that I love working in an adult day training program for adults who have developmental disabilities. I'm hoping that working here will help prepare for life as the future parent of an adult with developmental disabilities.

Some people have told me they'd be bitter if they had to go through what my family has in the past year. I say no. As I tuck my oldest in at night and tell her I love her all the way to the moon and back to a yellow pillow, and all the way to the moon and back to a chocolate locket for my youngest daughter, I realize that life could be much worse. As the mother of an individual with autism, the daughter, the sister, and the aunt of an individual with autism, I see the potential in all. Every one of them has something unique to offer this world.



## Rising Stars

BY BRENDA ZECHMEISTER, COORDINATOR  
Rising Star Studios, Edgewood, KY

According to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, recent findings revealed as many as one in 110 children in the United States are now diagnosed with autism. It's the fastest-growing developmental disability; according to the Autism Society, the annual growth is 10 - 17%.

April is Autism Awareness Month. Several activities are planned locally in conjunction with this, from advocacy - with the Autism Society of Ohio partnering with the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Network on a Legislative Advocacy Day at the Statehouse - to raising awareness - with an Autism Awareness Game on April 20th in partnership with the Cincinnati Reds.

In addition, organizations such as New Perceptions' program, Rising Star Studios, will provide additional support for the autistic community with a special outreach sampler program, Monday, April 11 - Thursday, April 14. Rising Star Studios will offer complimentary classes for autistic youth from 4-7 p.m. in art, photography, music, computers, life skills, cooking, and yoga. All classes will be held at New Perceptions, One Sperti Drive in Edgewood, Kentucky.

For more information, call 859-344-9322, ext. 15,



Nancy Cooper Source: Brenda Zechmeister

or e-mail [info@risingstarstudios.org](mailto:info@risingstarstudios.org). Interested participants must reserve their spot by April 7.

### More Rising Star Studios

Although there are many centers that offer rehabilitative services such as occupational, speech and behavioral therapy, the Rising Star Studios program is distinctive. This program makes an incredible difference in the lives of young people with autism and other special needs in the Greater Cincinnati/Northern



Betsty and Alex Source: Brenda Zechmeister

Kentucky area through unique arts and life skills classes. Art, music, and dance are more than a valuable leisure skill through which young people with autism and special needs can learn to express themselves. The overall quality of their lives is improved as they learn to function more independently. Students learn and improve upon social skills, academics, communication skills, motor skills, and activities of daily living. The skills they learn through the fine arts, in addition to life skills classes such as cooking and computers, stay with them for a lifetime.

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# Coffee Party Sponsors Peace Rally on Fountain Square

Coffee Party Cincinnati and friends held their first annual “Patriotic American Peace Rally” on Fountain Square, Saturday March 19. This rally was held to mark the 8th anniversary of the Iraq War, and to promote peace and civility. Coffee Party Cincinnati hopes that this rally will encourage people to take a stand against war, violence, and hate. Approximately 100-200 people attended the rally.

**SHELI DELANEY**

The national Coffee Party Movement established itself in January 2010 as a non-partisan grassroots political organization, and Coffee Party Cincinnati is one of its many local chapters that have sprung up across the state of Ohio and the US since its inception. The Coffee Party was created to be a venue for people who are disenchanted with two-party politics and want to work toward positive solutions, government accountability, removing corporate influence from politics, and making government a true expression of our collective will.

When it comes to political discourse, Coffee Party wants candidates and elected officials who will quit wasting time slinging mud, disagree without being disagreeable, stick to the facts, and never EVER use rhetoric that deliberately incites hatred and violence toward other groups of people. The Coffee Party formed last year in response to the bitter hateful rhetoric surrounding the healthcare reform bill about this time last year, and also in response to the non-stop media coverage of the Tea Party. Over the last year, it local chapters have organized in nearly every major city across the US, and have taken on a wide range of political causes.

At our rally we presented speakers from different organizations around Cincinnati that are in support of ending the wars. The speakers we featured included: Don Rucknagel, Green Party; Josh Spring, Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless; Professor Mark Laue, University of Cincinnati Department of History; John Waltz, Veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; Robert “Buck” Clay, Veteran of the Iraq War; Donna Park, Citizens for Global Solutions, Elizabeth Amphor, International Socialists Organization, and Fariba Nourian, Coffee Party Cincinnati.

Throughout the rally, we circulated a letter to our US Representatives in Ohio for you to sign which states that we want them to stop supporting funding for the wars and to fight for money for social services, education, healthcare, libraries, public radio, infrastructure, job creation, and all that other good stuff that we love that we believe the government should be providing for us. A total of 65 signatures were collected.

We organized this rally because we know that it is wrong for the US to wage war and occupy foreign countries. We know that it costs enormous amounts of tax payer money to sustain such efforts, while other much-needed



Photo by Sheli DeLaney

programs go unfunded or underfunded. We know that contractors and corporations are able to make huge amounts of money from war profiteering, while our economy slumps and our middle class and our poor struggle to recover from a recession. And more than the monetary cost of the war is the loss of life that results from it; thousands of soldiers, and many times more civilians, that could have otherwise lived out their lives and made a positive contribution to society, are lost to us forever. Many of us have lived through several periods of war, violence, and political unrest, and enough is enough. Ironically, at the same time we were holding our rally Saturday, a coalition of armed forces from Britain, France and the US began attacking the Libyan military in order to stop them from killing protestors and rebels. While we agree that the people of Libya must be protected, we hope in the future that regimes like Gadhafi's are never put in power in the first place. We also wish that coalition forces would not pick and choose whose people they are going to protect, because while they may be stopping the attacks on the people of Libya, the people of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Yemen are still being killed by their own government.

Finally, several of our supporters have spoken out against the name Patriotic American Peace Rally, saying that it is misleading, delusional, and even offensive, since nationalism and patriotism in the US is associated with a long history of imperialism and national superiority. While those are fair and well-intentioned critiques, we believe that as Frederick Douglas once said “a patriot is a lover of one's country that rebukes it and does not excuse its sins.” We at Coffee Party Cincinnati reject the framing of what some call patriotism, and we want to challenge these definitions. Being against the wars and the military machine is patriotic. Of course, we know our title is a bit tongue-in-cheek, but we sincerely hope the rally attracts some from the right who oppose the empire. They exist and should be reached out to. With them we are a majority. And we feel that we can love our country and the world at the same time. Making change starts at home at the local level.



Photo by Sheli DeLaney



## Lighthouse Community School

COREY GIBSON

Growing up can be tough, but growing up in the child welfare system can be even tougher. With hundreds of thousands of children growing up with out a home, essentially living under the care of the government, education can be a difficult step in these children's lives. But for the children in the Greater Cincinnati area living in foster care or in the welfare system, they can turn to the Lighthouse Community School.



One of Kayla Bentley's wardrobe designs Her country is Ireland.

Lighthouse Community School is a highly specialized school for high school age students that stresses "individualized, flexible and intensive strategies to meet the educational needs of youth in the child welfare system."

The school does all it can to accommodate the students. The school is sponsored by the Cincinnati Public Schools, meaning no tuition for the students;



A student working on styling their mannequin.

the school works with local districts to provide transportation and community volunteers from all around help to keep the school running. With a basketball team, volleyball team, computer lab and

a library with a student staff ratio of 5 to 1, Lighthouse Community School is like any other school in the neighborhood.

David Rosenthal, owner of Prairie Gallery in Northside, is one of the many volunteers at the school. He has been working in the community for years doing photography programs.

"Basically {the programs} introduce photography as a way to learn about art making," said Rosenthal. "And also learn about how art works in the world."

He began working with the Lighthouse Community School a year ago when he did a graphic novel project with the students.

The graphic novels vary heavily from student to student. One tells the story of growing up with an alcoholic family member, while another tells the story of a prince. The writings are accompanied by astounding photos taken by the students that show how they see the world around them. The creativity and sharp photography make the stories extremely intriguing.

"They were autobiographical, fictional, fantastical things," said Rosenthal.

This year he is teaching a class at the school once a week that combines the art of photography with the creative stylings of fashion designs.

"The goal of the class is to engage the students with developing creative concepts based on research about the world," said Rosenthal. The students are studying specific countries of their choose and translating those into fashion designs. The students also document their projects throughout the process by taking photographs of the things that inspire their clothing.

Rosenthal started the students out by having them look at fashion magazines and research about different countries. He

instructed the students to find colors they want to use, shapes they can incorporate into an outfit and textures that could be manipulated and copied onto the clothing.



Marvin Binford working on one of his wardrobe designs. His country is Mexico.

Next, he asked the students to take photos of things, anything. He wanted the students to get used to using a camera.

"Our first couple of photo shoots we were just asking them to experiment with the camera, just to see what a camera can do," said Rosenthal. "They looked at things close up, at extreme angles, what happens when you over or under expose a picture. Just looking at the possibilities of the medium."

After taking pictures for inspiration, the students began thinking about clothing they wanted to use. Rosenthal introduced the idea of styling to the students. The students took clothing and accessories and began using them in unconventional ways to what the outcome would be. The students would dress the mannequins and photograph the outfits, using lighting to change the "mood of the garment."

Since Rosenthal has a limited time with the students each week, the students are using available clothing instead of fabricating their own. To make up for not being able to sew the outfits, he took the students to Goodwill to find clothing for their outfits.

The end goal of the project is an exhibition at the Contemporary Arts Center on May 6, which showcases the student's work. The exhibition will include the fashion designs, the photographs taken along the way, collage work and the conceptual photos taken for inspiration.

"I think it is an important part of the whole thing," said Rosenthal. "Part of my bigger mission in life is to find creative ways to involve artists in the world." He wants the world to acknowledge the work these students have accomplished.

Rosenthal said he wants the students to learn about creative expression and what it can mean to them. Since many of the students in the school have never had a chance to take a photography or fashion class, Rosenthal wants to give them an outlet for expressing themselves.

Yet what he is really instilling in the students is a passion to succeed when they are challenged. Rosenthal gives the students problems that he has presented

to college students who at an advanced level still have difficulty with the projects.

Rosenthal raises the bar for his students. He challenges them to do amazing things with not just art but with their lives. He treats these students just as he would treat graduate students he has taught in the past.



One of Dasheka Edward's wardrobe designs. Her country is Bolivia. She transformed a scarf into a top and a button up t-shirt into a blouse. The yellow and green stripes are taken from a wind sock's streamers.

"Part of the reason I really like this work is because these kids are hardly ever challenged," said Rosenthal. "They go through life, starting at a very early age, with the bar being automatically lowered. If someone walks into a situation knowing the exceptions are low, that is how they are going to perform."





# Rally at Fountain Square

**KELISSA HIEBER**  
Contributing Writer

Tuesday March 14th, was a chilly raining day, however these less than ideal weather conditions did not stop large numbers from coming out to the rally at Fountain Square. Participants of this rally, arrived in solidarity against the massive proposed budget cuts, outlined by Governor John Kasich and the proposed Ohio Senate Bill 5. Bill 5 is similar to the bill in Wisconsin, which received massive debate causing the democrats to literally flee the state to delay the vote on the bill. Bill 5 would eliminate collective bargaining rights for an estimated 350,000 police officers, teachers and a large array of other public workers. These large numbers of workers would be unable to bargain for fair wages or improved working conditions. Also strikes would be disbanded and unions would essentially be destroyed, leaving thousands of workers silenced. Kasich's proposed budget cuts for the next two years would issue many of it's cuts to public schools ranging from the primary to the university level, cut programs for the poor, massively cut the resources and funding for local governments and reorganize Medicare. At the rally on Tuesday, groups ranging from large unions such as AFSCME, CFT-AFT, other groups such as Jobs for Justice joined with various representatives from the inner-faith community. Also present were various undergraduate and graduate students and all types of university employees, from local colleges such as Miami University and the University of Cincinnati. Many Cincinnati City Council members such



Rally Photos **By Chris Kromer**

as Mayor Mallory also spoke out in solidarity with the assembly. Mallory spoke to the crowd, saying that one of the primary reasons why public workers are being targeted is because those proposing the budget don't understand what these workers go through and how important they are to our community. Mallory said: "They are committed to public service and to making our lives better." Speakers from AFSCME and AFT spoke to the crowd about the importance to fighting this battle together and that in order to kill this bill; everyone was going to have to go to work. Representatives from the faith based groups AIMOS and Su Casa, voiced their support in this battle and spoke out against such bills and budget cuts, which punish those who hold the foundation of the community together. The spokesperson for AFT started her address by saying quite bluntly about Kasich: "What is wrong with this man?" Part of his questioning of the governors character came from the fact that only 9% of the budget is designated for public workers, yet they would receive some of the most severe cuts and restrictions. A mother from Lakota expressed her



concerns of what will happen to her daughter's education and opportunities for things such as sports and other extra-curricular activities. She like many others asked the question of why everyday workers and public schools were suffering the most, when they claimed that these are not the people who created the budget crisis in the first place. They urged that the corporations who through unequal, unfair business practices let the economy spin out of control, should be the ones to pay, not innocent public workers. City Council member Cecil Thomas, illustrated the disconnect between government officials like Kasich and public workers by quoting something that Kasich had said to lobbyists back in November. "If you think that I'm going in the wrong direction, stop me. I don't want to drive over a cliff. I just want to be a good governor." Thomas said that is all well and good, but then directly after this invitation for public debate and participation, Kasich said in order for people to help build a better Ohio: "You need to get on the bus. If you're not on the bus, we'll run over you with the bus and I'm not kidding." Everyone



in the crowd at this rally knows that we are in a very difficult time in our country and difficult decisions do have to be made. However, those who helped to create this economic catastrophe should be held accountable and the rights and voices of essential workers need to be upheld. Is perfectly balancing the budget worth jeopardizing the livelihood of so many? And when did things such as education, suddenly become expendable and extraneous? Everyone in the crowd knew that sacrifices are ahead, however Kasich's attitude of excluding so many from the discussions on how to deal with this situation is unacceptable. Equally intolerable are his callous remarks such as saying he will run people over if they don't agree with him. This seems to represent a complete disregard for the people that he is suppose to be representing. If whole groups in society have no voice or rights, then this goes against the very fabric of what is supposed to define America, that of the right to freedom and participation and inclusion in democracy, which represents the ideals of the masses not just the rich.



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## FEED ME SEYMOUR... FEED ME ALL NIGHT LONG! BY JENI JENKINS

The title of this column is taken from the 1986 film "Little Shop of Horrors," where a plant keeper must meet the demands of a ravenous plant that feeds on humans. Instead of plants that feed on people, this column is for people who feed on plants!!



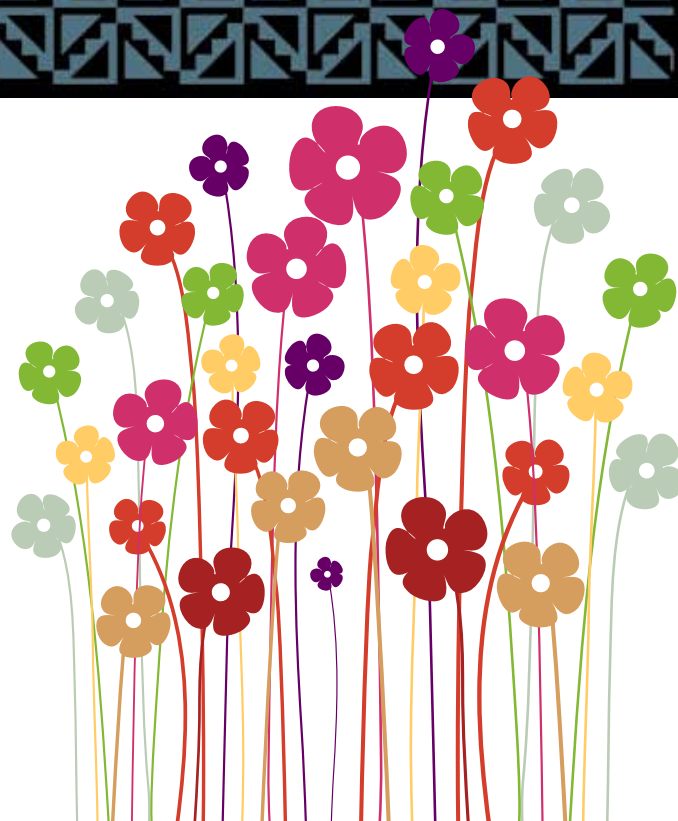
## FIERY MEXICAN LASAGNA

This week I hosted a dozen fiery ladies at my house for our weekly "Taco Tuesday" meal. I spent several days prior contemplating the "perfect meal" and eventually decided on Mexican Lasagna served with Jalapeño Corn Bread, a South of the Border Couscous and a Chipotle Black Bean Salad. Dinner was such a hit, there were scarce leftovers. Here's the YUMMY recipe for the main dish-stay tuned as I publish the others in coming editions. I hope you enjoy! Serving size, 12-15 bellies.

### Ingredients:

- 1 white onion, chopped
- 4 cloves fresh garlic, minced
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 can diced green chilies, undrained
- 1 (15 oz) can diced tomatoes with onions, undrained
- 1 12 oz. bag morning star veggie crumbles (vegetable protein)
- 2 10 oz. cans enchilada sauce
- 32 oz. shredded Mexican style cheese
- 8 burrito size flour tortillas
- 1 cup ricotta cheese
- 2 eggs
- 32 oz. Mexican style shredded cheese
- 1 cup chopped green onions
- 1 (15 oz) can sliced black olives

- Pre-heat oven to 350
- Lightly coat a 9 X 13 inch casserole dish with cooking spray
- Heat oil in a large skillet over medium low heat and sauté the onion and garlic 3-4 minutes until the onions turn translucent.
- Add chilies, tomatoes, veggie crumbles and 1 can enchilada sauce and bring to a boil. Simmer about 8 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove sauce from heat.
- In a bowl, whisk together the eggs and ricotta until frothy.
- Spoon 1 cup of the sauce onto the bottom of the casserole dish.
- Top with 2 of the tortillas, spread evenly to form a layer
- Top with 1/3 of the egg mixture
- Top with 1/4 of the shredded cheese
- Repeat layering twice.
- Top with remaining tortillas, can Enchilada Sauce, cheese, green onions and olives.
- Bake in pre-heated oven for 25-30 minutes or until cheese is melty
- Voila, Feed!





## Japanese street paper: 'We are not defeated'

Vendors are back on the streets of Tokyo selling copies of *The Big Issue Japan*, as staff vowed to support all street paper vendors affected by the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and resulting tsunami.

Translated by Mayuko Hida, and Yushin Toda (University of Glasgow)  
Originally published by The Big Issue in Scotland  
Additional reporting by The Big Issue Japan  
[www.streetnewsservice.org](http://www.streetnewsservice.org)

In Sendai, capital of Miyagi - one of the north-east regions worst hit by the tsunami - all Big Issue Japan vendors are alive and accounted for. Sadly, damage to infrastructure means there has been no delivery of magazines to Sendai, Sapporo, or any of the cities in the north.

Miku Sano, managing director of The Big Issue Japan's Tokyo office, said: "In Sendai the vendors survived but do not know when they can start selling the magazines again. The vendors and people in Northern cities are fighting for their lives and (to find) loved ones. We are trying the best we can to support them. Things are not easy and will not be the same, but we are not defeated." "We are also trying to start our football practice in Tokyo as soon as possible," she added. "All the scheduled matches were cancelled but many of our vendors said that they want to play football to feel better."

### Diary of a disaster

The Big Issue Japan works with the Sendai Night Patrol Group to help the homeless in Sendai City, one of the worst hit by the March 11 tsunami. Tireless staff members have been providing free meals for anyone sleeping rough as the city attempts to recover from the disaster. Aoki San, head of the patrol team and magazine distribution in Sendai, allowed us to publish extracts from his diary about the relief effort:

### 14 March

In Sendai, the supply of water and electricity was restored in some parts, but it will take more than a month to restore gas supply. In the Wakabayashi area, the worst affected area within Sendai city, I saw a very long queue of people trying to get half rotten oranges and only one banana. A thousand dead bodies are left unattended in a gymnasium, and there is no information



Caption: People ride bicycles past houses destroyed by an earthquake and a tsunami as snow falls in Natori City, Miyagi Prefecture, northeastern Japan March 17, 2011. **REUTERS/Kyodo**

about those unaccounted for. We are planning to provide free meals of curry rice for everyone from 11am. The death toll is too big to comprehend, and many people seem to know nothing about what to do.

### 15 March

Roads, airlines and trains are not allowed to run except for emergency vehicles, and there is the dire prospect of a shortage of goods. More than 1,000 people queued for a motorway bus. I joined a queue for Daiei Supermarket before its opening at 10am, but 30 minutes after the opening, major goods had already gone. There is a shortage of gas cylinders, noodles, tinned food, batteries, and rice.

Public administration is completely paralysed. Sendai City Council opened a help desk today, four days after the earthquake. Hospitals in the city are only able to provide a partial service due to electricity shortages. Without a battery-powered radio, people are getting no information at all. Many citizens don't know about the accidents at Fukushima nuclear plant. People are 'information refugees'. Local radio stations function to help people to find out about missing persons. Strong aftershocks at 3am and again at 4am.

### 16 March

This morning started with rain in Sendai. Today the local radio announced about the food at Wakabayashi city hall, so we had to make 1,000 meals. At lunchtime we gave out curry, miso soup and rice for about 800 people and it was gone in a second. Some hadn't eaten for three days and queued for the food in the rain.

I am worried because there's no information about what's going on at the nuclear power plant. I am worried about the radioactive contamination for the north Kanto region because of the north winds. There are thousands of people sleeping in the elementary schools, city halls and public halls. I will do my best to provide free meals tomorrow, although we may run out of stock if we do so.

### UPDATE from Miku Sano, Monday 21st March:

We organised a football training session with vendors this weekend. Vendors and many volunteers participated (see images on the Big Issue Japan blog: <http://ameblo.jp/one-goal-one-step>). Most of our street paper vendors are doing OK, but the ones who are in the worst hit areas face a lot of challenges.

At first, many of us were surprised at how strong and unaffected most vendors seem. However, when you think about it, most of our vendors always sleep outside- which means, in many ways, the "emergency situation" that we are facing now is the kind of life they live on a daily basis.

I hope this crisis will bring us together and that it will give us a chance to think more about the people who have to live in such harsh conditions not only after this earth quake, but every day.

In the mean time, the latest edition of The Big Issue Japan has arrived in Sapporo. Hokkaido five days behind schedule. We still have earthquakes on a scale of M5 to M6 every day in the coastal areas around Tokyo and the north. There is a shortage of electricity and gas in Tokyo and the northern cities. People in Tokyo were panic buying food initially, but that slowly becomes less. Things are still unsettled but everyone is trying to help each other.



A woman cries after her mother's body was found in Onagawa, Miyagi prefecture March 18, 2011. The area was devastated by a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami on March 11.

**REUTERS/Kyodo**



# Bearcats Better Be Better

BRYAN CLIFTON BURKE



Now that the city’s teams have been eliminated from the Big Dance, many of its citizens have wiped basketball clean from the list of things they normally think about. After all, with the misery surrounding the Bengals and the promise of a quality Reds season, it doesn’t make much sense to dwell on local teams that lose.

However, before you return the sport back to its shelf for the summer, know this: the Bearcats will soon be legit and should generate some realistic excitement this time next year. How much excitement? I don’t know; come on, fortune telling? Why do I think they will be better? Namely Yancy Gates.

The legacy of this man is shaping up as a sort of tragic one. A local cat with a huge following, Gates has not manifested into the beast many of us anointed him as he left Withrow High so many years back. His NBA-ready body at the age of 18, mixed with an interesting shooting touch for a big guy, allowed some to speculate that he would be wooed by the pros before graduating. Three underwhelming seasons later, complete with a punitive benching and vigorous boos from the UC faithful, hearing Yancy confirm his desire to return seems unnecessary. Of course he’s coming back; he needs more time to maximize his draft potential which can still become quite high if he works hard and plays his cards right.

Gates, though, primarily wants to graduate, and there’s certainly nothing wrong with that—for all the ways universities use their high-profile athletes, snaking a degree out of them is the least he could do to even the score. Fans, however, want to see him become the local legend he seemed so destined to be. Next year is the last chance for greatness, and before the pros whisk him away to another land with another life, we want to see him spread his wings right here in his hometown.

To do that, though, his game needs an injection of urgency. Yancy, like almost every one else, is a rhythm player. Those majestic 18-footers he occasionally flashes only come when he catches and shoots in rhythm. His post moves, including his still-improving passing game, succeed when in rhythm. The problem is, he often holds the ball too long and appears to over-think himself. If he made quicker decisions, the offense could run through him easier and roles would be more clearly defined. I believe he has the raw materials to become an excellent offensive player, but he must put in the work this offseason. His defense is toughening up and his rebounding continues to get meaner, but a polished array of post moves and a sharpened sense of urgency could make him the aircraft-carrier the Bearcats will need to make their run next year.

The good news is that even if Gates improves from marginally to not at all, he will still be surrounded with more size and more talent around him. Gone are the silly

biggs, Andre McClaine and Ibrahim Thomas. These men were good for fouls only and didn’t even do that well. Back is the pogo forward Justin Jackson whose length and athleticism make him an outrageous transition player, along with redshirt freshman, Kelvin Gaines. The 6’10” Gaines looked a tad out of sorts in the Deveroes Summer League last summer, but he is large and plays angry which will help him in the burly Big East. Then there is the incoming freshman, Octavius Ellis, who sounds like a lanky power-forward enshrined in Greek mythology, but instead is one only from Memphis. Ellis’ scouting report talks of a shot-blocking European-type of forward who is comfortable scoring from the wing.

Also expected to arrive on the scene next fall is a skinny Floridian named Shaquille Thomas. The nephew of NBA veteran Tim Thomas, Shaquille is raw but has lottery-pick tools and could become an immediate impact player for the ‘Cats. More of a small-forward, Thomas is ranked in the ESPN’s top-100 list of high-school players and is worth keeping an eye on.

The development of the back court will obviously be key as well. Cashmere Wright, Sean Kilpatrick and Dion Dixon all must raise their game throughout the summer to fulfill my expectation of each of them. One weakness coach Mick Cronin must address is a suitable backup point guard. Once it became clear Wright was not totally healthy against Connecticut in the second round, it became equally clear that there was no one better in that spot off of the bench. Either Dixon needs to learn to run the point more effectively, or incoming player, Ge’Lawn Guyn, needs to show his Division I chops right away. Wright is a man who has not been able to remain fully healthy with this team, so it seems impractical to assume that he can be depended on another full season next year. He is a fine player when he is feeling good, but a contingency plan at the point can’t be a total waste of time.

All in all, this program is headed in the right direction. Mick Cronin has met hostile criticism in his five years here, perhaps due to the negative public perception that shorter people face on a daily basis, I don’t know, but his team has improved every year under his guidance. He is finally getting his recruits in place and developing them to some degree of success. True, their brainless decision-making often astounds the observer, but I’m hoping that the dumbest players on the roster are the ones graduating this summer. With a proper trimming of the unwanted dead weight and a new flock of athletic prospects slatted to arrive this fall, these Bearcats can move into the Sweet 16 and beyond in the very near future.

Here’s to next year.





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# Ten Years-Not Enough to Get Over Death in Over-the-Rhine!

Just how much time is enough time, to get over the death of a Family Member?

JUDGE LESLIE ISAIAH GAINES  
Contributing Writer

It's been ten years since that April day in 1001 when Timothy Thomas's blood soaked that tiny dead-in ally, and rad down That Gutter in Over-the-Rhine. Timothy Thomas, a member of our Cincinnati, Ohio family was gunned down by a bullet in the back; while unharmed and running from a Cincinnati Police officer; down an Over-The-Rhine ally.

The entire Cincinnati Family, regardless of race or economic condition was impacted by Timothy Thomas's sudden, premature and violent death. Burning, Looting, violence and bloodshed washed over the inner city neighborhood of Over-the-Rhine like a tsunami following an earth quake. I was on the riot ravaged streets of Over-the Rhine within a half hour of the first

fire being set and the first window being smashed. I immediately joined a group of citizens who grieved and mourned the death of Timothy Thomas; in the midst of trying to restore peace and stop the violence. I did not read about the riot or watch the revolution on TV. Following the dictates of fate and destiny I was drawn to the forefront of the battle; as if by a giant magnet. I was there with the residents of Over-the-Rhine when we were choked by smoke and blinded by tear gas, as we dodged bean bags fired upon us by police officers in Washington Park. I volunteered to serve on "The Stop Squad;" A group of concerned Citizens who walked every street and ally in Over-the-Rhine trying to stop the violence. We stopped the blood-shed and performed CPR on the Findley Market; the historic market in heart of Over-the-Rhine. Had been strangled and entangled by the giant tentacles of violence that engulfed the city. We blew fresh breath into Findlay Marker and today ten years later it is on the road of rehab to recovery. Yes April 2011 marks ten years, many citizens of Over-the-Rhine and

Cincinnati are still in a state of shock and post-traumatic grief. To those who say, "It's been ten years, get over it!" I ask; is ten years enough time for you to get over the death of one of your loved ones? Some deaths we never get over. The death of unarmed Timothy Thomas is one of them. We never get over them. We pray for the strength to carry on. The danger in getting over, is in the fact that we may forget. If we forget history we are doomed to repeat it. Dr. King's assassination on April 4th 1968 and President Kennedy's assassination on November 23 1963 will never be forgotten. Timothy Thomas was not a famous person or world Leader. You don't have to be to be loved and missed. Purchase: Over -the -Rhine a Positive Look; book by Judge Leslie Isaiah Gaines and Doctor Jennifer p. Gaines. On sale at Findley Market: Over-The-Rhine, Cincinnati Ohio. Partial proceeds to benefit the Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless. Read Judge Gaines Briefs: Weekly Brief short stories of life and Law, Yahoo Associated Content, Face Book. Judge@judgegaines.com

# From the Director

Continued from Pg. 2

this against it, but at the end of the day, all of us in the usa are engaged in war against people in other lands. Now that we have dealt with some Truth, let's deal with some more. War and homelessness are connected. In fact, homelessness is connected to nearly every ill in the usa. Homelessness very likely may be the ultimate symptom of our collective ills. And yes, we are all responsible for homelessness and it's continuation. With that stated, we must take hold of the Truth that we continue to repeat the same ills and crimes over and over and over again. This is the case in a broad sense in that this country was founded through war and continues to function with a foundation of war. But, let's narrow this down a bit, war does not just take place across borders, war is very much taking place here.

bottom or at the bottom never see it. It does not in fact trickle down. During this time homelessness went from being in the hundreds of thousands of people in a given year to millions of people in a given year. This is when we created modern-day homelessness. No longer were just predominately middle aged, addicted men homeless. Anyone could become homeless. This is why so many of our organizations are currently somewhere near their 25th anniversary. Obviously, the money did not trickle down, but something did. In fact what trickled down was nothing new, it had been trickling down for many years. It trickled down all the way to Cincinnati. For the past 25 to 30 years in this country we have continued to deplete our stock of low-income affordable housing and living-wage jobs. Not only have we depleted the stock of both, we have taken it a bit


with low-incomes. Gentrification is war that creates homelessness. On a broad scale of stealing from one group to give to another, gentrification is why we have modern day homelessness. We currently have a war raging in our own streets- right here in Cincinnati. We are at war with each other, and it is sad. People have been forced from their homes for other people to move in to the urban core. Companies, at the backing and pushing of the city, are occupying urban core neighborhoods. The lives of people with low-incomes are being threatened on a continual basis. Homes are being stolen, schools have been closed, public restrooms have been torn down, parks have been either closed or taken over by private interest, money is being hoarded up by big business, lies are being told, people are being criminalized for being financially poor and / or homeless, occupation is happening- what else can you call it but war. And by the way, the argument that sometimes you just have to have war in order to create "freedom" or in this case "progress"- is a lie. It is a lie told by those that want to steal the land and resources of another group. It is a lie that is allowed to continue because, once again, others get duped and believe the lie. Still others may not believe the lie, but stand by and allow it to happen. And lest we forget, war is murderous to the lives of people. We are told nationally that we are at war on "terror" and creating freedom, and locally that we are fighting blight and de-investment and crime and creating progress and an economic base- But the Truth is that there is a war raging in our streets against those in Cincinnati that are financially poor. The other Truth is that True freedom murders nobody and True progress hinders no life. We have a choice, do we believe we can all live together, or do we believe that some of us must not exist so that everyone else can reach their manifest destiny?

**" We are told nationally that we are at war on "terror" and creating freedom, and locally that we are fighting blight and de-investment and crime and creating progress and an economic base- But the Truth is that there is a war raging in our streets against those in Cincinnati that are financially poor."**

In the 1980's the Ronald Reagan administration pushed his "trickle-down theory" economics or Regonomics. In this period, the Reagan administration slashed and cut spending on safety-net services and especially housing (by the billions of dollars) and put this money into big business and military. All this was done with the promise that the big-whigs at the tops of the tall buildings would buy more cars and hamburgers that the rest of us make, we would then get their money, we would spend it, and the money would continue to work its way down. The problem with this theory is that for the most part the people at the tops of the tall buildings hoard the money, so the people near the

further. We have allowed (perhaps some of us have even supported) large companies, politicians and developers as they have wedged their way into our downtown-core neighborhood and forced people with low-incomes from their homes and businesses, taken over and given the land to whom the large companies, politicians and developers see fit- to those deemed worthy and destined to take the land. Sound familiar?-. The term for this is gentrification. Another term could be occupation, displacement, forced removal or war. War forces one group's life upon another group's life through the methodic erasing of those deemed undesirable. This is what gentrification does. Gentrification is war on people





While ruminating on the 2001 Civil Unrest  
...consider this:

Martin Luther King, Jr. said: "A riot is the language of the unheard.

Paulo Freire said: "It is absolutely essential that the oppressed participate in the revolutionary process with an increasingly critical awareness of their role as subjects of the transformation."

Audre Lorde said: "I think we have to own the fears that we have of each other, and then, in some practical way, some daily way, figure out how to see people differently than the way we were brought up to."

In summation, when a community is replete with the belief that certain individuals are inherently superior to other individuals and that belief becomes institutionalized and drives discrimination, hatred and violence, eventually it becomes necessary for the victims to come together, rise up and speak out. Those who have been taught to hate difference must decide to analyze where that hate comes from. They must decide to listen. They must decide to walk in the shoes of difference. If those who speak out are not heard, they will rise. -JJ

## Have a Laugh

### CLEO WOMBLES

A man walks into a bar and asks the bartender is he can drink free all day if he can make him laugh

The Bartender agrees, so the man pulls a mouse, a small piano, and a frog out of his pocket.

The mouse begins to play the piano and the frog sings opera.

One man seeing this approaches the man and offers him \$500,000 for the talented frog.

"SOLD!" He says. After the proud new owner leaves the bar with the frog, the bartender asks the man why he wouldn't have tried to sell the frog for a million.

He responds, mouse and piano in hand, that the mouse is actually a ventriloquist.

## CAN YOU

### WILLA DENISE JONES

Can you shut 'emdown? Does the world believe that this is the world's solution

Can you shut 'emdown? Keeping factory's open with no work, now that's pollution

Can you shut 'emdown? The free clinics, people homeless, no more Drop Inn Center

Can you shut 'emdown? Washington Park, the sanitation workers, I can't help but litter

Can you shut 'em down? Over the Rhine was white then it was black, I thought we were all together

Can you shut' emdown? I'm confused so tell congress I really thought they knew better

Can you believe in your heart that the decisions of our country are either republican or democratic?

Can you believe that out of all the people in the world two simple parties be worthy of so much static?

Can you close your eyes to the reality of the fear that has such a tight grip on our nation today?

Can you keep living shut down and shut up? I'm baffled but not lost for words I can honestly say

For me, learning to live without doubt or fear in my life and keeping God so close to my heart

I have no doubt that without God's blessings this world is doomed to fall completely apart

With much faith and without any regards for the republicans or democrats controlling my being

Without any doubt what so ever today I know that almighty God is the only real thing

So can you shut 'em down? Now slow down and take the time to think, what do you really understand?

You need to come back into the days of Adam and Eve and remember when only God ruled the land!



## SPRING SALE

We serve as a creative outlet for women in need to uncover their talents and build relationships while making and selling jewelry, quilts, and other handcrafted items. We provide a welcoming environment and continuous support-our women do the rest. They are our voice. They are our mission. They are our Sarah Center. Artists receive 50 % from the sale of their items, while the rest goes towards materials and other support.

April 28th-30th  
9 am to 5 pm  
May 1st  
11 am to 2 pm

**Sarah Center**  
HELPING WOMEN HELP THEMSELVES

1618 Vine Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Celebrate spring with Sarah Center! Find a perfect gift for Mother's Day or a new accessory for your spring wardrobe at our annual Spring Sale. You'll find unique handcrafted jewelry, quilts, and more all to support a great cause! For more information visit [www.sfoutreach.org](http://www.sfoutreach.org)



# CMHA’s Housing Choice Voucher Program Opens April 4

**KELLY KRAMER**  
Streetvibes contributor

The Cincinnati Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA) will open the waiting list for its Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program April 4-8, 2011. The application will be available exclusively online at [HYPERLINK “http://www.hcvwaitlist.com”](http://www.hcvwaitlist.com) www.hcvwaitlist.com. This is the first time the application will be available solely online.

For those with limited access to a computer, CMHA has identified resources throughout Hamilton County that will offer free computer access to fill out the online application. For a full list of free resources, applicants can call 513-977-5757, visit [HYPERLINK “http://www.cinitmha.com”](http://www.cinitmha.com) www.cinitmha.com.

The HCV program makes safe, quality, affordable housing more accessible to those who need it most – very low-income families, the elderly and the disabled. Under the federal program, qualifying families receive a subsidy from CMHA that covers the gap between what the family can afford for rental housing, and what a private landlord charges. The participating family or individual pays the difference between the actual rent charged by the landlord, and the amount subsidized by the program.

If you plan to apply: Applications will only be accepted online at [HYPERLINK “http://www.hcvwaitlist.com”](http://www.hcvwaitlist.com) www.hcvwaitlist.com from 12:01 a.m. on Monday, April, 4 through 11:59 p.m. on Friday, April 8. Only one application per person will be accepted. You will need a pen and paper to write down your confirmation number.

What you need to apply: Individuals who apply for the waiting list will need to know information such as birthdates and social security numbers of everyone living in the household; asset information (checking and savings accounts, real estate owned); a current mailing address; and an emergency contact address.

Individuals must also verify their annual household income, including:

- Pre-tax gross employment wages
- All Social Security, SSI, OWF/TANF/Welfare benefits – including minor children.
- All cash received on a regular basis from family, friends or others
- All amounts received for child support
- Net income received from self employment
- All monies received from any pension plan
- All monies received from assets, (i.e. rental income, interest from a Certificate of Deposit (CD), annuity, savings account, Investment Retirement Account (IRA), etc.)

What happens after you apply: An application does not guarantee that you will be added to the waiting list. Those who apply for the waiting list will be randomly

## Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List Opening

**CMHA will accept pre-applications for the HCV program online, April 4–8, 2011.**  
**[www.hcvwaitlist.com](http://www.hcvwaitlist.com)**

**What you need to know!**


- Pre-applications are only being accepted online at [www.hcvwaitlist.com](http://www.hcvwaitlist.com) from 12:01 am Monday April, 4 through 11:59pm Friday April 8.
- CMHA will award wait list slots through a lottery system.
- Bring a pen and paper to write down your confirmation number!
- Only one application per person will be accepted.

**What you need to apply**

- Annual Household income, including:
  - ✓ Pre-tax gross employment wages
  - ✓ All Social Security, SSI, OWF/TANF/Welfare benefits – including minor children.
  - ✓ All cash received on a regular basis from family, friends or others considered to be regular contributions
  - ✓ All amounts received for child support
  - ✓ Net income received from self employment
  - ✓ All monies received from any pension plan
  - ✓ All monies received from assets, (ie. rental income, interest from a Certificate of Deposit (CD), Annuity, savings account, Investment Retirement Account (IRA), etc.)
- Birthdates and Social Security Numbers for everyone living in the household.
- Current Mailing Address and Emergency Contact Address
- Identify a qualifying preference
  - ✓ **Elderly** - the head, spouse or co-head of household is age 62 or over
  - ✓ **Disabled** - the head, spouse or co-head is disabled
  - ✓ **Center for Independent Living Options (CILO) referral**
  - ✓ **Living Arrangements for the Developmentally Disabled (LADD) referral**
- Asset Information
  - ✓ Checking accounts
  - ✓ Savings accounts
  - ✓ Real estate owned

**Where can you apply**

- On any computer with internet access.
- CMHA has partnered with various locations to designate public computers for this week, visit [www.cintimha.com](http://www.cintimha.com) or call 977-5757 for a completing listing of times and locations.
- Through your case worker with various social service agencies.

**CMHA**

selected for the HCV database by lottery system, regardless of the day or time the application is submitted. If a family or individual is selected for the waiting list, they will be informed by CMHA in writing. Those who are interested in applying for the HCV program waiting list should visit [HYPERLINK “http://www.cintimha.com”](http://www.cintimha.com) www.cintimha.com for more information, or speak with a case worker at local social services agencies.

## April Fools in Over the Rhine

### A resident’s perspective on ‘change’ and why it can be seen as a joke

**LEE MCCOY**

Coming to a neighborhood near you...no it’s not a movie, it is something worse. It’s a move against any resident of Over the Rhine. It is scary, it is creepy, and it should be against the law. “Oh let me shut my mouth now!” I am talking about 3CDC...you is a bad mother...but on the real, will someone stand up to the bull shit? When an injustice has been done...will someone stand up?

Years ago before any one had ever heard of a 3CDC, there was one realtor who owned most of the buildings in OTR. The rich and the poor lived side by side and rent was affordable. Now the same place has little renovation but a different view of the “improved” Washington Park and comes with a much different price tag. That apartment...actually, let me do this right, the same ‘condo’ or ‘loft’ now would cost \$500 to a grand per month. Now that is April Fool’s Day. These places that we used to call home are now specifically designed and priced for anyone but the low income. Which is still insane to

me with the major dollars being pumped into transportation forms in and out of the area for the “low income.” There are still so many buildings in the area that are boarded up. Why can’t we take some of them and actually make them available and affordable for everyone? This way we could all live side by side, the rich and the poor. Remember what the good book says about ‘love thy neighbor’? I guess this doesn’t apply to 3CDC. The ‘Take Back the Neighborhood’ Rally should have sent them a clear message. Hopefully God will have a April Fools prank to play on 3CDC. Here is my hope...these moves you have been making in OTR will come to an end. You’re crooked, you’re bad boys. So answer me this 3CDC, what’cha gonnado when they come for you? Bad boys, bad boys. Even the good you’ve done here like the work with the Jimmy Heath House comes with the stench of a rat.

I was walking around the other day and I was amazed at the buildings that had been destroyed downtown for this casino. The Family Dollar is gone, it seems the bus station will be next. Can you imagine how full the Justice Center would be then? I guess Simon Leis will get his April Fools if that happened.

Now let me tell you something about me...in 1968 I was in the US Navy. I was a Navy Seals Officer on a submarine called the USS Enterprise. We were four thousand feet under the sea when the sub blew up. I was in an air bubble and I fought my way to the top. On the way up I ran into a mermaid and we made love. Nine months later she gave birth to twins...out came Charlie Tuna of the sea and on his fin was Bumble Bee. April Fools!



## Housing Choice Voucher Waiting List Public Computer Locations

### The Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County

All 680 computers at its 41 locations county-wide are available for public use, however certain times and locations have a computer or two reserved for submitting a HCV wait list pre-application.

**Mon. 4/4 - Thurs. 4/7: 9am – 2pm**  
**Fri. 4/8: 9am – 6pm**

- **Main Library – Homework Central:** 800 Vine St.

**Mon. 4/4: 1pm – 9pm; Tues. 4/5: 9am – 9pm**  
**Wed. 4/6: 1pm – 5pm; Thurs. 4/7: 9am – 6pm**  
**Fri. 4/8: 1pm-3pm**

- **Main Library Computer Lab:** 800 Vine St.

**Mon. 4/4 – Thurs. 4/7: Noon – 3pm**  
**Fri. 4/8: 10am – 2pm**

- **Avondale** – 3566 Reading Rd.
- **Madisonville** – 4830 Whetsel Ave.
- **Northside** – 4219 Hamilton Ave.
- **Price Hill** – 3215 Warsaw Ave.
- **Walnut Hills** – 2533 Kemper Ln.
- **West End** – 805 Ezzard Charles Dr.

**Mon. 4/4, Tues. 4/5 and**  
**Thurs. 4/7: Noon – 3pm**

**Wed. 4/6 and Fri. 4/8: 10am – 2pm**

- **Bond Hill** - 1740 Langdon Farm Rd. at Jordan Crossing
- **Cheviot** – 3711 Robb Ave.
- **Corryville** – 2802 Vine St.
- **Covedale** – 4980 Glenway Ave.
- **Forest Park** – 655 Waycross Rd.
- **Monfort Heights** – 3825 West Fork
- **Norwood** – 4325 Montgomery Rd.
- **Westwood** – 3345 Epworth Ave.

**Mon. 4/4 and Tues. 4/5 5pm – 9pm**  
**Wed. 4/6, Thurs. 4/7**

**and Fri. 4/8: 10am – 2pm**

- **Delhi** – 5095 Foley Rd.
- **Green Township** – 6525 Bridgetown Rd.
- **Sharonville** – 10980 Thornview Dr.

### Center for Independent Living Options

2031 Auburn Ave.

Mon. 4/4 – Fri. 4/8: 9am – 12:30pm & 1:30pm – 5pm

*\*Limited to disabled households call 241-2600 for a reservation*

### Community Action Agency

1740 Langdon Farm Rd.

Mon. 4/4 – Thurs. 4/7: 1pm – 4pm

### Cincinnati Area Senior Services (CASS)

Over the Rhine Senior Center

1720 Race St.

Mon. 4/4 – Fri. 4/8: 9am – 3pm

*\*Limited to senior households call 721-4330 for a reservation*

### Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless

117 E. 12th St.

Mon. 4/4 – Fri. 4/8: 9am – noon & 1pm – 5pm

### Hamilton County Developmental Disabilities

1520 Madison Rd.

*\*Must be DDS eligible and call 559-6624 for a reservation*

### Jurisdiction-wide Resident Advisory Board

1601 Madison Rd.

Mon. 4/4 – Fri. 4/8: 8am – 5pm

### Living Arrangements for the Developmentally Disabled (LADD)

3603 Victory Parkway

Mon. 4/4 – Fri. 4/8: 10am – 2pm

*\*\*Limited to disabled households call 487-3919 for a reservation*

### Lincoln Community Center

1027 Linn St.

Mon. 4/4 – Fri. 4/8: Noon – 8pm

### Lower Price Hill Community School

2104 St. Michael

Tues. 4/5, Thurs. 4/7 & Fri. 4/8: 10am – 2pm

### Mercy Franciscan/St. John

1800 Logan St.

Mon. 4/4 – Fri. 4/8: 9am – 2pm

### Mercy Neighborhood Ministries

1602 Madison Rd.

Mon. 4/4 & Fri. 4/8: 9am – 3pm

Tues. 4/5, Wed. 4/6 & Thurs. 4/7: 9am – 6pm

### Millvale Recreation Center

3303 Beekman St.

Mon. 4/4 – Fri. 4/8: Noon – 2pm & 5pm – 8pm

### Mt. Washington Recreation Center

1715 Beacon St.

Mon. 4/4 – Fri. 4/8: 9am – 8pm

*\*Must be a CRC member*

### Over-The-Rhine Learning Center

1212 Race St.

Mon. 4/4 – Thurs. 4/7: 11am – 4pm

### Queen City Vocational

425 Ezzard Charles Dr.

Fri. 4/8: 9am – 3pm

### Santa Maria

718 State St.

Mon. 4/4 – Fri. 4/8: 10am – 5pm

### Scarlet Oaks

Return to Work Resource Center

3254 E. Kemper Rd.

Mon. 4/4 – Thurs. 4/7: 10am – 4pm

### Su Casa

7036 Fairpark Ave.

Mon. 4/4 – Thurs. 4/7: 10am – noon & 2pm – 4pm

*\*Limited to Spanish-speaking households*

### Winton Hills Opportunity Connection

5318 Winneste Ave.

Mon. 4/4 & Wed. 4/6: 10am – 2pm

### Working In Neighborhoods

1814 Dreman Ave.

Mon. 4/4 – Fri. 4/8: 9am – 1pm

### YWCA

898 Walnut St.

Mon. 4/4 – Fri. 4/8: 1pm – 4pm



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# Challenging Problematic Systems to Improve Relationships

Rod Northcutt uses animals and nature to reference social concerns

“Once your eyes are open and awakened to social reality, you cannot escape it anymore,” says Rod Northcutt. “It stays with you and your innocence is gone.” Northcutt became acutely aware of social issues when he moved to Chicago for graduate school. He was confronted for the first time with poverty, homelessness,

He also resorts to nature-related metaphors to raise awareness of the various societal ills. Initially destined to become a medical illustrator, Northcutt soon realized he was in reality a maker and that he liked to craft and create things; also that he enjoyed setting his art in nature, interacting with its environment, doing sculptural installations. His work, as a result, grew along these lines. In his interior gallery work, he functions like a fiction story teller, combining animals with study of the sciences or humanities. This allows him to empower the animals, understand them, especially understand human

## Artists as Activists

By SAAD GHOSN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

crowded housing, environmental decay, the many human and physical problems of a large city. They remained with him ever since and found their way into his art. A visual artist, he teaches sculpture at Miami University, Oxford, OH. He has a BFA degree in drawing and painting from the University of North Texas and a MFA degree in sculpture from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Northcutt grew up in rural Texas, intimately connected to the land and to animals he raised and tended to. It triggered in him a lifelong interest in biological and

from known archives by combining with current social concerns, such as outsourcing of labor... My work is carefully hand-crafted and often suggests a ‘backwater’ answer to difficult social questions.” He used for instance native woodworkers and builders such as beavers, woodpeckers, and termites, to devise an alternate history of building and manufacturing in the United States, pointing to their inherent problems. His displays have variably included relics and tools from beaver lodge architecture in the 1950’s, dioramas illustrating a 19th century American Luddite movement

among beavers, Dutch-style shoes supposedly carved by woodpeckers and beavers... At times, he also featured natural ceramic workers such as potter wasps and barn swallows.

Northcutt quickly realized, however, that his conceptual gallery work did not reach common individuals who, confronted with real daily problems, could not afford the luxury of frequenting galleries. He felt the need for a different venue to touch them and resorted to outdoor installations, easily seen and experienced, and good vehicles for his social concerns.

He would research a site specific area for his work, become familiar with its environmental problems (for instance diseases affecting its trees, gypsy moths,

predator insects...), and propose a piece that speaks to its ecological or social issues. Nature and its elements would thus become proxy for humans and their life.

In his installation Arborvention (a composite of arbor and intervention), he placed orthopedic braces around damaged dying trees. He was calling attention to the scarred trees and their condition, but also indirectly to the care needed for vulnerable, diseased, possibly disabled and neglected individuals in society.



Rod Northcutt carving  
Photo by Scott Allison

In Near-shore Fish and Flotsam of New York City, an installation he did on the shore of East River in Brooklyn, he made, out of floating garbage collected from the site (Styrofoam, wood, plastic...), model sculptures of the various fish that live in the river. He accompanied his sculptural installation with a didactic display that included, in addition to pictures of the indigenous fish, pictures of the discarded elements and information about their constituent chemicals. The toxic chemicals we throw away became like the new fish of the battered environment.

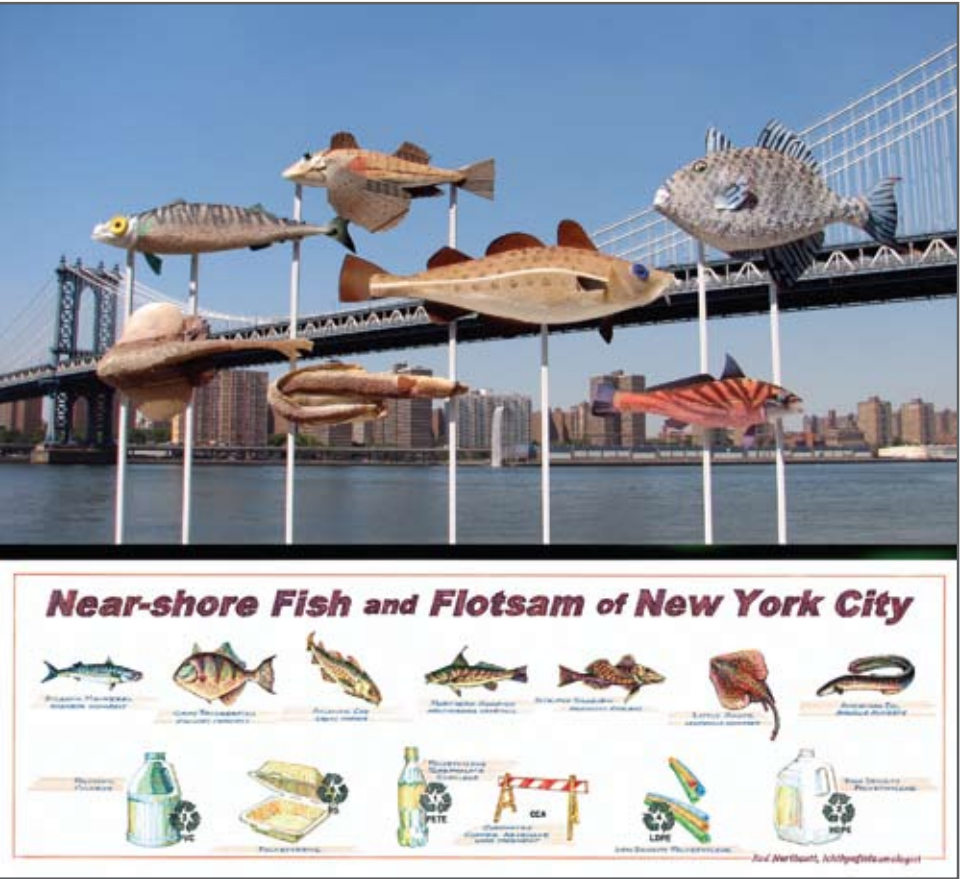
To raise awareness about consumption and recycling, and working collaboratively with Material Exchange, a green/sustainable collective, he built with materials recovered from various Chicago dumpsters, a temporary miniature golf course on which passer-bys played for 2 weeks.

In one of his pieces he used bird watching as a metaphor for racial prejudice in selection and categorization, birds sought after being usually the only bright colored ones; and in another one, bird migratory pathways to reflect on Mexican migrants, natural migration patterns, in his mind, all similar and legitimate.

“In my art I try to facilitate conversations that challenge habitual, often destructive, ways of thinking and living,” he says. “I want my art to make an enabling and ennobling change in both the artist and the viewer.”

In addition to his art, Northcutt uses his teaching to convey his concerns. In the classroom he discusses social and environmental questions, how to research them and express them. He involved his students in developing a material resource data base to understand materials being discarded into the land, differentiating, according to the environmental theory ‘cradle by cradle’, the naturally degraded biological from the technological needing recycling. For the past 3 years he has also taught traditional, non-electric, woodworking skills through a making-based traveling course, Unplugged. He would like to offer the course, free of charge, to kids in various parts of the country, giving them access, opportunity, and ability to become creators, the creative act, according to him, “allowing unfolding and reaching the spiritual.”

“With my work, lectures, and teaching, I always challenge problematic systems,” Northcutt says. “I would like my work to improve relationships between people, animals and the earth. I want to get into people’s heads; I try to do it through humor, beautiful craft, an active experience.”



Near-Shore Fish and Flotsam of New York City, mixed media sculptural installation with annotated diagram  
Installation and Photo by Rod Northcutt

social systems that he explored, compared, and illustrated in his work using analogs between humans and the natural world. “My sculptures, drawings, paintings, all speak of human relationships,” he says. “I use animals as surrogates to construct allegorical tales referencing social history, philosophy, labor movements, manufacturing, revolution...”